2/29/68

Dear Paul,

You have been arguing, not listening. There is, really, no argument. However, there is a disagreement on timing.

I have had my fifth book finished for 5 months and haven't been able to see my way clear to publish it because I am $75,000 in hock and I still have enither income nor subsidy nor meaningful help of any kind. I have had the sixth, then scheduled for earlier appearance, mostly done since almost a year ago. I laid it aside to do other work. I have to assign my own priorities based upon my own understanding and my own concepts of what a single man can next od that is of most significance.

Tiger To Ride was researched and ready for writing, outlined, and a few sections written, when I decided that the evil doctrine of other work would frustrate the quest for truth and endangered the struggle against fascism, which is what this really is.

Now there is a limit to what a single man can do, no matter how long or hard he works. I have come as close to that limit as anyone you will ever see or hear of. Despite the great toll of the last four years, working every day, averaging less than four hours a night of sleep, I still work around the clock, not getting into bed at all.

For the past six months it has been my plan to get back on Tiger as soon as I have Post Mortem out. I regard it as one of the more important things, positively, and as an essential to frustrate what is inevitable, negatively. Had I not, I'd have gone back to Tiger then. It is not just a question of dismissing fact because to the intellect it is not as essential (as though most people find it this way).... I'll have to let it stay here for now for I've no time (I'm also the housewife and the shipping departments while my wife is laid up, which will be for four or five more weeks). If I did not regard the sequence in which I work as the right one, I'd have altered it. I have, in fact, regularly done just that, as I think you can realize. Whether you agree or not, all the significant stuff is coming from one source, and without that nothing new would have been brought to light. I am looking to a success, an accomplishment, not to activity alone or vanity alone. I regard the sequence in which I approach the things I do address as the right one, as thenecessaary one, and I have thought it out. Perhaps I am wrong; that I acknowledge. But I do see it this way, and I am not proceeding on whim.

I will not conjecture on the basis of Oswald being double-crossed. I leave that to Thompson and the other intellectual finks. I accept your basic doctrine, however, for it is mine. This is precisely what I'll do in Tiger. However, there is much more fact available than you suspect. I'll not tie it in with just Vietnam, which is indispensible, but with many more thinks. It is not just Vietnam, but it is many more policies. In a sense we are also talking about motive and who had it and why? I am, and my book will not be just a think-piece, viable as that approach could be, largely because it is not necessary, because there is a vast amount of fact that is part of it, and that fact I have already collected in my notes. I went even farthur in the direction you want: as an intellectual exercise, I started calling shots and dating them. Right now I look back with distinct gratification with my dated notes on the Tonkin Bay thing. I correctly analyzed it' correctly predicted what would

and did follow. There are other things of the sort. Recall the incident of the Cuban fishing boast right after the assassination. This was another such, and I have that part written. Let me tick a few more off. No, there is no time. Instead, let me tell you a bit more of this book. It will begin in the interregnum, go to the Bay of Pigs, the Vienna Meeting, the Berlin Wall, the Blue Streak, the Turkey Missles, the increase in missles, atomic policy, not in that order, and a number of other things. It will then go to the Cuba Missle Crisis (and what I have on that, the most important single part), the n to the limited test-ban treaty, the American University Speech, the Inter-American Press Assn speech, and wind it all up with the assassination. I write this in too great haste, but I hope I have made clear to you that while I disagree with some of your formulation and the need of it, I am not in disagreement with what else you are saying and I would have had that book done by the end of 1966 if I didn't regard what I am doing as immediately of greater importance. Let me suggest to you that while your basic thinking is sound, you are both over-simplifying and making your own traps. It is not at all necessary to speculate on the roles of Oswald and Ruby to tell the comprehensible story, and to attempt this, when both are clear enough, is to waste words and weaken a strong case. Besides, I have no reason to believe tha OSwald had the slightest inkling of what was about to happen until it did. He recognized his own position immediately, expressed it lucidly, making only a single mistake: he never dreamed he'd be bumped off while in the hands of the police. I did-and that, too, I predicted.

I'll have to mail this without reading it for corrections and without rereading your letter, for there are other letters I must write and I must get them and the packages to the post office before it closes.

Let me also suggest to you the other great tolls on my time: I spend a very conside able amount of time writing letters other might consider unnecessary, and an additional great time trying to frustrate things that the forces of evil make clear they intend. I am in the front line, not the supply ranks, as you are. Today I had to tackle Sparrow and NBC, and I've done it. I spent a day and a night a month and a half ago preparing for Sparrow, who is now in this country to spearhead another great campaign by the finks and crooks. I have laid what basis for it a single, unimportant man can, and now I must fight that. If it is good strategy to attack, as I believe, there also are times when it is necessary to defend. I think perhaps this is not now clear to you, and perhaps I'm failing to make it clear. Eventually, it will become lucid. You have no idea how much of what happens without mention of my name I have much to do with, in New Orleans and elsewhere.

Please understand I intend no offense in seeming to speak bluntly, nor in the haste. There are some things I must do, like mail out the orders for books, and fight on a day to day basis, like a guerilla, if you will. Until I have the capability I cannot again return to the major offensive. Then I will. We have no strategic disagreement; we do on tactics, to a degree. But as soon as it is possible, I will return to the book you only in part conceive and to a lesser degree in detail but to a good degree in doctrine visualize. I wish I could have had it done months ago, for it would go crazy in sales today. I also risk parts of it being stolen from me, which two men I trusted have already done.

Hastily,